



CITY OF ROCKVILLE ANNUAL REPORT ROCKVILLE ON THE RISE



Message from the City Manager

From my first days at City Hall in November 2004, one thing has been clear: Rockville truly is a "city on the rise."

Throughout FY 2005, the Mayor and Council carefully considered and refined development proposals that will help shape Rockville for decades.

The past fiscal year opened in July of 2004 with the start of construction on the new Rockville Town Square, the focal point of Rockville Town Center redevelopment. In addition, significant mixed-use developments approved in FY 2005 included the Akridge development in Town Center; Twinbrook Commons at the Twinbrook Metro Station; and the Upper Rock District near the Shady Grove Metro Station just north of King Farm. All three projects advanced Rockville's determination to "Ensure New Development Enhances Rockville's Quality of Life," which is one of the Mayor and Council's five strategic goals.

FY 2005 saw considerable progress on all of the Mayor and Council's goals. Construction of Rockville Town Square is well on the way toward meeting the No. 1 goal of "Creating a Vibrant Town Center."

Emphasis on property maintenance and community-oriented policing remain particularly important for "Strengthening Rockville's Neighborhoods and Sense of Community." Our commitment to "Improve Pedestrian and Traffic Safety" has been boosted considerably by our Red Light Camera enforcement program and neighborhood traffic calming projects.

This annual report illustrates the progress and achievements made over the past year toward fulfilling the strategic goals.

Among our five goals is the pledge to "Enhance City Government's Performance." Although the changes may not be outwardly visible to most, improve-

ments in FY 2005 were significant and will lead to more efficiency and accountability.

New management systems, such as the program performance budget, a project tracking system, quarterly reviews of operations and lost time reporting have been intro-

duced and are already showing results. A study of the City's refuse collection has provided information to help lead to more efficient operations. The City has continued its move toward better communications with residents whose first language is not English.

We also have made great strides in developing and deploying our employees. The Department of Community Planning and Development Services met its full staffing needs by the end of FY 2005. The Department of Community Services was re-organized in a manner that will lead to stronger service delivery. Pay for performance and skill-based compensation systems are under development.

The residential and business communities of Rockville continue to grow. Estimated population figures released in June of 2005 showed that the City has added about 9,700 new residents since the official U.S. Census of 2000. Those figures mean Rockville is now the third-largest city in Maryland (it was No. 5 in 2000). The 2005 Rockville Citizen Survey showed 92 percent of respondents find the Quality of Life in Rockville is either "excellent" or "good." Our greatest challenge in the coming years will be to manage future growth in a way that ensures the great quality of life our residents enjoy and expect.

Sincerely,

Scott Ullery
Scott Ullery
City Manager

MAYOR

Larry Giammo

COUNCILMEMBERS

Robert E. Dorsey, John F. Hall, Jr., Susan R. Hoffmann, Anne M. Robbins

CITY MANAGER

Scott Ullery

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

Catherine Tuck Parrish

CITY CLERK/TREASURER

Claire F. Funkhouser

CITY ATTORNEY

Paul T. Glasgow

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SRVS.

Arthur D. Chambers

DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Michael Q. Cannon

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Gavin Cohen

DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL

Richard J. Hajewski

CHIEF OF POLICE

T.N. Treschuk

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Craig Simoneau

DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND PARKS

Burt Hall

2005 Survey Says... Citizens Love Life In Rockville

The third biennial Rockville Citizen Survey left no doubt that City residents think Rockville is on the rise.

The 2005 survey, conducted during winter 2004-05 by the National Research Center of Boulder, Colo., found that 92 percent of responding Rockville citizens said the quality of life in Rockville was "excellent" or "good." The survey also found that 88 percent said the City was an "excellent" or "good" place to raise children.

Rockville residents may feel so good about living in the city due to their feeling of security.

Of those responding to the random sample, 93 percent said they felt "very safe" or "reasonably safe" while "walking alone in your neighborhood during the day."

Basic, but essential, services

scored highly. Refuse collection was rated "excellent" or "good" by 86 percent of respondents.

Rockville recreation programs and city-sponsored special events were rated "excellent" or "good" by 85 and 84 percent, respectively.

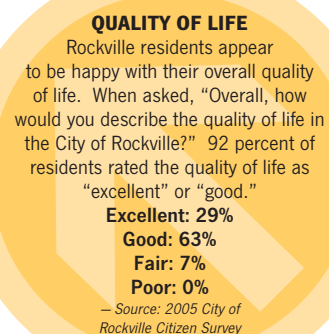
The eight-page 2005 survey was mailed to 3,000 randomly selected households. Completed

surveys were returned at the impressively high rate of 38 percent.

Tom Miller, president of the National Research Center, said results that made Rockville stand out among its national peers included that 71 percent of respondents "strongly agreed" or "agreed" that Rockville "welcomes citizen involvement." This puts Rockville in the 90th percentile nationally.

Items that residents cited as needing improvement were the lack of affordable housing (68 percent said access to affordable housing was "fair" or "poor") and traffic (rated by 51 percent as either "extreme," "major" or "moderate.")

Results and analysis of the entire survey is available at www.rockvillemd.gov.



Rockville: Maryland's Third-Largest City Latest Census Estimates Say City Grew by 9,700 Since 2000

Rockville has gained more than 9,700 new residents over the past four years and is now the third-largest city in Maryland, according to the latest population estimates made by the U.S. Census Bureau. The unofficial 2004 estimates list the largest cities in Maryland as Baltimore (estimated population of 636,251), Gaithersburg (58,091) and Rockville (57,100).

The estimated figures are

based upon a number of factors, including building permits issued.

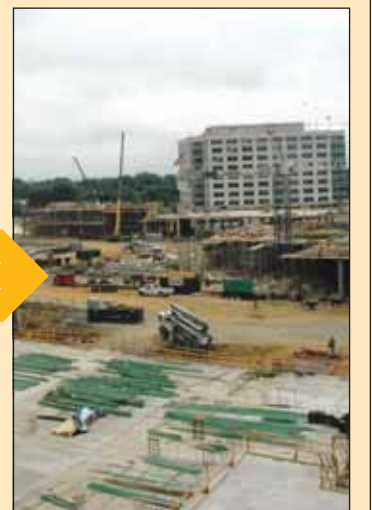
The official census figures are compiled every 10 years. According to those figures from 2000, Rockville was the fifth-largest city in Maryland behind Baltimore, Frederick, Gaithersburg and Bowie.

Rockville's figure from the 2000 Census of 47,388 will remain its official population until a new census is completed in 2010.

Since the 2000 Census, Rockville grew by the largest number of residents among all Maryland cities (9,712). Much of the growth came from the new mixed-use communities of King Farm and Falls Grove. Gaithersburg was second in growth, adding 5,478 new residents over the past four years.

Of all cities with populations of 10,000 or more, Rockville grew by the largest percent gain since 2000 (20.49 percent).

Rockville Town Square High Hopes for City's Downtown



Significant construction progress has been made over the past year on Rockville Town Square. The former shopping center that existed on the site was razed in September 2004. Site grading and installation of infrastructure, such as water and sewer lines, were installed throughout the fall and winter. In spring and summer, the first signs of building structure construction could be seen. More than 2,000 cement trucks have passed through the site, which sees up to 200 construction workers each day.

Mayor and Council in FY05

The Mayor and Council's Five Goals

In their third complete year as Rockville's Mayor and Council, Mayor Larry Giammo and Councilmembers Bob Dorsey, John Hall, Jr., Susan Hoffmann and Anne Robbins continued to implement short-term and long-term strategies to create a better Rockville.

In spring of 2004, the Mayor and Council revised and refined their original strategic plan, creating five major goals—including the No. 1 goal of Creating a Vibrant Town Center. The ongoing construction of Rockville Town Square in downtown Rockville clearly demon-

strates that Rockville is rising toward meeting that goal.

In FY 2005, the Mayor and Council formulated policies using their five goals as a framework that would affect residents, the business community and City staff. Over the past year, members of the Mayor and Council have met with the citizens of Rockville in various ways to seek further input on programs that will shape the City's future.

Throughout development of their goals, objectives and expected outcomes, the Mayor and Council have worked with residents, the business community and City staff.

The five major goals of the Mayor and Council's strategic plan are:

Create a Vibrant Town Center.

This top priority seeks to create a town center that will be the heart of the Rockville community and that will be distinctive, special and "uniquely Rockville."

Ensure New Development Citywide Enhances Rockville's Quality of Life.

This goal reflects the desire to influence new development such that it contributes to the quality and character of the Rockville community and does not place undue burdens on existing neighborhoods.

Improve Pedestrian and Traffic Safety.

Protecting pedestrians and bicyclists while also providing safe and better flowing traffic routes for vehicles is part of an ongoing collaborative plan.

Strengthen Rockville's Neighborhoods and Sense of Community.

Programs that will make the City's neighborhoods stronger include increasing citizen awareness about the zoning ordinance and property maintenance codes through the City's Code Enforcement program.

Enhance City Government's Performance.

The Mayor and Council continue to take seriously its responsibility to review the City government's performance, to support the provision of high-quality services and to strive to do more with less.



Worksessions, public hearings and general sessions are held throughout the year to make important decisions on City issues. Above, left to right: Councilmembers Bob Dorsey and Anne Robbins, Mayor Larry Giammo, Councilmembers Susan Hoffmann and John Hall, Jr. at a worksession.



Councilmembers Susan Hoffmann and John Hall, Jr. serve up hospitality at the new Peerless Rockville Historic Homes Tour.



Members of Rockville's Mayor and Council have spent considerable time asking residents about ways to improve the City. Councilmember Bob Dorsey, right, talks to a resident at Glenview Mansion.

FY 2005 Highlights

- No Tax Increase for Seventh Consecutive Year:** The FY 2006 Operating Budget and Capital Improvements Program, which went into effect July 1, 2005, kept the City property tax rate unchanged for the seventh consecutive year while adopting necessary, but modest, increases in water, sewage and refuse fees. The budget supports the five major goals and reinforces that building a new Town Center is the City's No. 1 priority.
- Tax Credit Approved:** The Rockville Homeowners' Property Tax Credit program was approved in April to allow low-income homeowners an opportunity to receive credits on their property taxes. The program

supplements the State of Maryland Homeowners' Property Tax Credit program that allows credits against the homeowner's property tax bill by setting a limit on the amount of property taxes homeowners must pay based on income. Rockville homeowners who qualify for the state program will automatically be credited with an additional 35 percent in savings on their City of Rockville property tax.

- Giammo Builds Bridges to China:** Maryland Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. and Rockville Mayor Larry Giammo were among a group that traveled to China and Singapore in October in an effort to foster business opportunities between Maryland and Chinese firms. One goal of the trip was to help local businesses by identifying potential overseas markets and venture capital investors. A second goal was to demonstrate the benefits of doing business in the Rockville area to Asian businesses considering establishing roots in the U.S. The trip sought to work toward better understanding between



Mayor Giammo presents business development opportunities in Rockville Town Center.

these businesses and U.S. local governments such as Rockville.

- Thomas Farm Community Center Moves Ahead:** The City took a major step toward development of the first Rockville community recreation center west of I-270 by holding a public meeting in June. The Thomas Farm Community Center will be designed to serve residents of all ages and will include a variety of classes and activities, as well as drop-in use. Construction for the project is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2006 and will take approximately one year to complete. An online survey is being conducted for residents to



Councilmember Anne Robbins (fourth from right) joins state and City officials, and Rockville staff, for the opening of the new Senior Center sunroom.

give input on the use of the building. Visit www.rockville.md.gov to participate.

- Historic Preservation Conference:** Rockville's first Historic Preservation Conference was held on April 16. Identifying issues of importance was the goal of this conference. The need for more education supporting the value of preserving the City's neighborhoods, documenting historic resources, creating a conservation overlay zone that would help guide new development and promoting heritage tourism were the four dominant topics discussed.

Taking Action

Among the significant decisions made by the Mayor and Council in FY 2005 were the following:

- Art Projects for Town Square:** A proposal to support the Rockville Town Square project with nine public art projects was approved with a total overall budget of \$475,000.
- Controlling "Wheeled Recreation Vehicles":** The Mayor and Council adopted an ordinance that establishes fines and other penalties for violators who recklessly use items such as skateboards and bicycles.
- Rockville Cemetery Design Guidelines:** Adopted to provide guidance for maintenance and exterior alterations of the historic areas of the cemetery.

OVERALL GOVERNMENT DIRECTION
Ninety percent of Rockville citizens surveyed "strongly agree," "agree," or "neither agree nor disagree" they are "pleased with the overall direction that the City is taking."
— Source: 2005 City of Rockville Citizen Survey

City Services

2005

and Safety

Rockville continues to be a community that welcomes technological, natural and educational enhancements. As evidenced by the City Service and Safety highlights of FY 2005, the City has introduced and/or improved several initiatives to enhance the quality of life for all those who live, work or travel in Rockville.

Communication

Pay Parking Tickets;
Buy Theatre Tickets Online

The City began a new service that allows parking tickets to be paid online at www.rockvillemd.gov. The payment option is intended to provide a more convenient method for parking violators to pay their tickets and a better method for the City to track and collect ticket revenue.

Tickets to F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre also can be purchased more easily via the theatre’s Web site at www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre.

Rock Enroll Moving and Shaking

The City’s automated registration system for programs and classes continued to grow in popularity in FY 2005. Since Aug. 21, 2001, 25,277 registrations have been entered using Rock Enroll. Rock Enroll has eliminated the long lines of people that used to arrive on the first day of registration, especially at the Swim Center. In FY 2005, 60 percent of all registrations processed on the first day of a registration period were done using Rock Enroll. Camp registration has the greatest percentage of Rock Enroll users.

Permits; Brief Book on the Web

New links at www.rockvillemd.gov have made permit and license applications readily available through the Internet and made “Brief Book” documents given to the Mayor and Council for meetings more accessible to the public.

TRC 11 Special Features

The Rockville Channel (TRC 11), the municipal government station operated by the City of Rockville, produced new programs that provided in depth features on issues of concern to citizens.

“Breaking New Ground” offered citizens a look back at FY 2004. “History and Trends of Rockville” gave citizens an overview of Rockville’s past. A sneak peak of important issues being addressed at upcoming Mayor and Council general sessions and public hearings was found in the new program “Mayor and Council Preview.” The program “Informed Citizenry” examined the City’s communications functions.

Urgent Info “Crawls” to Citizens

TRC 11 added new equipment this year to allow for much quicker information transmittal to citizens in the event of severe weather or other Citywide emergencies. The information can be displayed simultaneously with regular programs in the form of “crawling” text at the bottom of the

screen, similar to weather warnings seen on other stations.

Rockville Distributes
First-Ever Bicycle Map

A new, free map of Rockville was produced to help bicyclers plan their routes and also learn more about bicycling in Rockville.

The comprehensive Rockville Bicycle Map outlines more than 20 miles of the City’s multi-use paths, including the 10-mile Millennium Trail, designated neighborhood bike routes and a suggested route people can take to travel across the City.

City Events Packaged
In One Source

The City’s Public Information Office and Division of Printing Graphics began producing complete six-month listings of City events. This is the first calendar of its type available to residents. The calendar also includes important phone numbers and was made available at all City facilities and participating local businesses. The objective was to consolidate all activities throughout the City on a semi-long-term basis to make planning easier for residents and others.



Pedestrian safety is a high priority in Rockville. Above, a countdown timer helps pedestrians know how much time they have left to cross a busy intersection in Rockville Town Center.

Croydon Creek Nature Center
Brochure: Naturally, Tree-Free

The new Croydon Creek Nature Center brochure was the City’s first major publication printed on tree-free paper.

The City felt it was important to reinforce the Nature Center’s mission to protect and preserve natural resources by identifying and using a paper called “Kanaf,” which is 100 percent tree-free, chlorine-free and is made from a plant that is native to Africa.

Free copies of the brochure are available at the Croydon Creek Nature Center, City Hall and other facilities throughout Rockville.

Community
Services

Traveling Medicine

Since 1968, Mobile Medical Care has been providing desperately needed medical care to uninsured area residents. For Rockville residents, the Montgomery County-

based, nonprofit organization provides services at the Twinbrook and Lincoln Park community centers on Fridays through its MobileMed van, “Moby.” Countless residents have received services through Moby and its medical staff, so many that a second van was added to the organization.

“Hummy” began traveling to different locations throughout the area, including some in Rockville over the past year. It helps fill the ever-growing need for medical care.

Police

Beacon of Safety Is Ray of
Hope In Emergency Situations

The City of Rockville Police and the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department, who often team up to lend a ray of hope in emergency situations, combined their resources to bring a “Beacon of Safety” to City residents who might someday find themselves needing help.

Last summer, the two departments united to make Rockville the

first jurisdiction in the Washington area to provide special flashing light bulbs to residents who could be in need of emergency services.

The bulbs, which are installed in regular outdoor porch sockets or in indoor lamps near front windows, flash continuously when activated. By being able to easily find a home that has placed an emergency call, the Beacon of Safety could be a lifesaver.

Bulbs are provided free to residents who request them.

‘Project Lifesaver’ Helps
Protect Alzheimer’s Patients

Rockville’s Police Department was one of the first agencies in the region to participate in a new national program called ‘Project Lifesaver.’ It is dedicated to protecting victims of Alzheimer’s disease.

Rockville Police received a \$4,000 grant from the national program in February to partially pay for a new tracking system that can be used to identify the location of wandering

Alzheimer’s patients.

The program will debut to City residents in summer 2005.

Public Works

Shedding Light on Crosswalks

In FY 2005, Rockville became home to the first two crosswalks in Montgomery County that make pedestrians highly visible to oncoming drivers.

The most recent addition was the illuminated crosswalk at Chapman Avenue near the Twinbrook Metro station. The other illuminated crosswalk is on Twinbrook Parkway near the entrance to the Twinbrook Community Recreation Center.

When activated by a pedestrian or cyclist, lights in the pavement flash to illuminate those crossing. If flashing, vehicles must safely stop and allow pedestrians to cross.

Pedestrian Safety in Watts Branch

As part of Rockville’s ongoing effort to improve pedestrian safety in the City, residents in Rockshire worked with City staff to develop a plan to make the intersection of Watts Branch Parkway and Aintree Drive a safer place for citizens to cross the street.

In order to urge cars to drive more slowly, in FY 2005, the City narrowed a small portion of Watts Branch Parkway and installed a raised crosswalk where citizens frequently cross. These improvements complemented a speed-indicator sign that was already installed on Watts Branch Parkway to make drivers aware of the importance of driving carefully in Rockville.

Community
Planning And
Development

New Pollution Hotline:
240-314-8348

A new Pollution Hotline by the City can help contain emergency spills before they do great harm to the environment.

Through the new hotline, residents can report unusual or illegal activities near waterways by calling an automated phone response at 240-314-8348. If a person observes or smells something improper in or near the water, or sees someone dumping



Through a grant, the City purchased a new trail sweeper in FY 2005 to keep trails clear of debris and snow for walkers, runners and bikers. Rockville has nearly 30 miles of trails open or planned.

something into the water, the hotline will give the caller the opportunity to report the situation. The City is prepared to respond swiftly.

Recreation
& Parks

City Hall Gets Internal Facelift

Rockville’s City Hall is undergoing substantial changes that began in FY 2005 to its interior to make the government center more efficient for citizens and employees.

The \$1.8 million project will make the building safer for employees and improve technology. No additions are being made to the building.

A study showed that space inside City Hall was inadequate, but with the new renovations, citizens and employees will reap many benefits. Some phases of the project have already been completed, and the overall renovations are expected to be completed by next spring.

Nature Center Encourages
Recycling of “E-waste”

Rockville residents now have a way to dispose of old cell phones, PDA’s, pagers and used printer cartridges in a manner that helps the environment and supports breast cancer research.

In February 2005, the Croydon Creek Nature Center launched its participation in a national program that recycles electronic waste. In addition to getting the items out of the nation’s landfills, the program makes a donation for every used printer cartridge and used cell phone to a breast cancer research foundation.

A collection bin for used electronic items is located in the Croydon Creek Nature Center at 852 Avery Road.

IMPRESSION OF
CITY EMPLOYEES

When asked about their experience with City of Rockville employees, just under half of those citizens surveyed (49%) reported having had contact with a City of Rockville employee within the past year. Of those who had contact, about 8 out of 10 respondents rated the overall customer service they received as “excellent” or “good”.

— Source: 2005 City of Rockville Citizen Survey

ROCKVILLE ON THE RISE:

Rockville's newest developments that were approved in FY 2005 will also become its newest neighborhoods, containing a mix of residential, retail and office uses. Easy access to public transportation is another common theme. In FY 2005, U.S. Census estimates indicated Rockville had added 9,700 residents since 2000 and had become the third-largest city in the state of Maryland. Rockville will continue to grow as several major mixed-use developments were approved by Mayor and Council in FY 2005. Over the next year, Town Center will continue to be the most significant development project. Other developments approved in the past year will help shape Rockville's future for decades.

Rockville Town Center: A Vibrant New Downtown

A portion of a commercial era in downtown Rockville symbolically came to an end on Thursday, Aug. 19, 2004, as major demolition began on what was formerly a large strip shopping center. That space made way for the new Rockville Town Square project, which is part of Phase I of Rockville's future Town Center.

Whiting-Turner Construction began demolition preparation on Aug. 14 on the shopping center that was located along North Washington Street (between East Middle Lane and Beall Avenue) and was anchored by a Magruders Grocery.

Preliminary work on the site began on July 13 after the last of the 23 tenants of the shopping center moved to new locations. The shopping center was razed to make way for a public parking garage and some of the residential and retail projects that will be part of Phase I. The 12.5 acres that cover this portion of Phase I of the plan is being called Rockville Town Square by developer RD Rockville, LLC.

Phase I of Town Center, which has an estimated public-private cost of about \$352 million, will include about 640 luxury condominiums and approximately 170,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space that will be owned by retail developer Federal Realty Investment Trust.

The City's IT Department helped establish a 24-hour Web camera that could be viewed by citizens wishing to get regular updates on construction progress.

The camera view is updated every 60 seconds. It can be accessed through www.rockvillemd.gov.

Library Groundbreaking

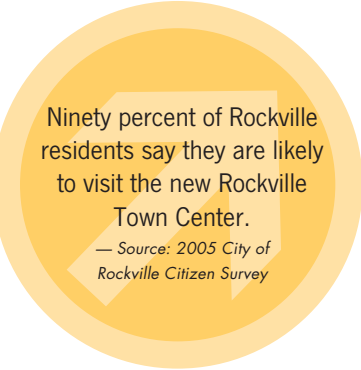
A groundbreaking ceremony for the new Rockville Regional Library, which will be one of the prime anchors of the City's redeveloped Town Center, was held on Jan. 24, 2005. The library will be located near Beall Avenue (between North Washington Street and Route 355).

When completed, the new Rockville Regional Library will be the largest in the Montgomery County system at approximately 71,500 square feet.

Rockville's Mayor and Council, Montgomery County Executive Douglas Duncan and many other elected officials were on hand for the ceremony.

The library, which will cost approximately \$26.3 million, will be the largest in the Montgomery County system when completed. The front of the library will face the public plaza of Rockville Town Square.

The library will be about 71,500 square feet, plus 12,700 square feet for library administration and another 14,700 square feet of office space for other county agencies. It will hold approximately



140,000 volumes from its present site on the corner of Maryland Avenue and Vinson Street. An additional 60,000 volumes will be purchased over a three-year period. There will be two large meeting rooms available for public use and 60 accessible computers.

The new library is scheduled to open in summer 2006.

Plans call for a new Maryland District Court to be built on the site of the current library.

Calming Town Center Traffic

The Mayor and Council authorized the City's Traffic and Transportation Division to proceed with a number of road projects that will help improve traffic flow as Rockville plans for the opening of Phase I of its future Town Center.

At a worksession on May 23, 2005, the Mayor and Council were presented with a number of options that could help improve traffic flow on streets around Town Center. The City has worked to address these measures well in advance of the opening of Rockville Town Square. It is expected that, from this nucleus, Town Center will expand to more than 60 acres over the next two decades.

Each of the projects presented to the Mayor and Council required analysis of how much traffic flow would be improved weighed against the cost. The Traffic and Transportation Division will continue to work toward an effective traffic solution as Town Center development continues.

Town Center's Akridge

On May 2, 2005, the Mayor and Council approved a resolution that will enable the Akridge Development Company to build a mixed-use development of 485 condominiums, restaurants with sidewalk dining and retail stores on what is now a surface parking lot across from the Regal Cinema and restaurant row on East Montgomery Avenue.

The approval was a major modification of a plan approved for the property in 1994 that would have allowed office buildings as tall as 22 stories.

The Akridge development will fill the open space between the busy block that includes Regal Cinema and numerous restaurants

and the new Rockville Town Square development currently under construction. A new street will separate the two complexes proposed for the development.

The adopted proposal will include:

- A maximum of 485 residences
- The maximum heights of the tallest buildings would be 144 feet (about 14 stories) along Maryland Avenue and 173 feet (about 17 stories) along Monroe Street
- Construction will not begin prior to July 1, 2006
- Fifty percent of the moderately priced dwelling units will be marketed to senior citizens

ROCKVILLE ON THE RISE

Development projects ongoing or approved in FY 2005

Ongoing

- King Farm
- Falls Grove
- Town Center
- Congressional South

Approved

- Akridge (modification of plan approved in 1994)
- Twinbrook Commons
- Upper Rock District
- Legacy in Lincoln Park



ROCKVILLE IS CENTER OF ATTENTION: *The ongoing construction of Rockville Town Square attracted attention from state officials. On this visit, left to right: Maryland Assistant Secretary of Business and Economic Development William Askinazi, Housing and Community Development Secretary Victor Hoskins, Rockville Mayor Larry Giammo, Lt. Governor Michael Steele, Secretary of Planning Audrey Scott and Rockville Councilmembers John Hall, Jr. and Bob Dorsey.*

Preserving City Traditions: Rockville Neighborhood Plans Take Shape

The City took major steps in FY 2005 to work with residents in the Lincoln Park and Twinbrook neighborhoods and businesses in the Rockville Pike Corridor to develop plans for those areas that would guide future development, preserve character and improve transportation.

Having a long-term plan for Lincoln Park is crucial because within two years it will be a neighbor to the new Rockville Town Center that is currently under construction.

The proposed neighborhood

plan advocates retention of historic Lincoln Park as a stable and secure neighborhood. Other important components include establishing circulation patterns that reinforce the residential community, and protecting its physical and cultural heritage.

It is intended for the Lincoln Park neighborhood plan to be adopted by the Mayor and Council in FY 2006.

The City began the process of updating the Rockville Pike plan, which focuses on the commercial area on Route 355 from Richard

Montgomery Drive south to the City limits near Rollins Avenue. Initial ideas include moving the corridor from being mostly commercial to more mixed-use with retail and residential components and increasing the transit-orientation near the Twinbrook Metro station.

The Twinbrook Neighborhood Plan task force will continue to study that neighborhood's future direction into FY 2006. Major issues being addressed are the influence of the impending Twinbrook Commons development and the maturation of the neighborhood.

New Development

Twinbrook Commons, Upper Rock

The preliminary plan for Twinbrook Commons, a 26-acre proposed development of multi-family residences, retail, restaurants and offices, was approved by Rockville’s Mayor and Council on April 4.

The Upper Rock District, an innovative mixed-use proposal that includes reviving an obsolete office building in northeast Rockville by converting it to trendy loft living, also was approved in May.

The Upper Rock District will feature 844 living units, including 106 moderately-priced units targeted toward senior citizens. The approval of the Upper Rock District, which will be developed by the JBG Companies, came after months of

negotiations in which the Mayor and Council asked the developer to make significant changes to its original proposal.

The preliminary plan includes retail space at affordable rents for start-up businesses and the creation of approximately 126 live-work units (residences that also will be utilized as small businesses or for artists).

The Upper Rock District will have 245,336 square feet overall of office space (238,086 square feet already exist in a recently built office building), 7,250 square feet of service retail space and 9,000 square feet devoted to restaurants. The project’s northern border will be Shady Grove Road. Its southern



Computer simulated drawing of Upper Rock community.

border will meet the King Farm Development, which has gained a national reputation as one of the most progressive planned communities in the nation.

Key elements of the plan include retention of the existing 238,086 square-foot office building and the conversion of the existing office building at 3 Choke Cherry Road to residential units.

The live-work units will be two stories, with the first floor designed as retail and office space and the second floor to be used as residential space.

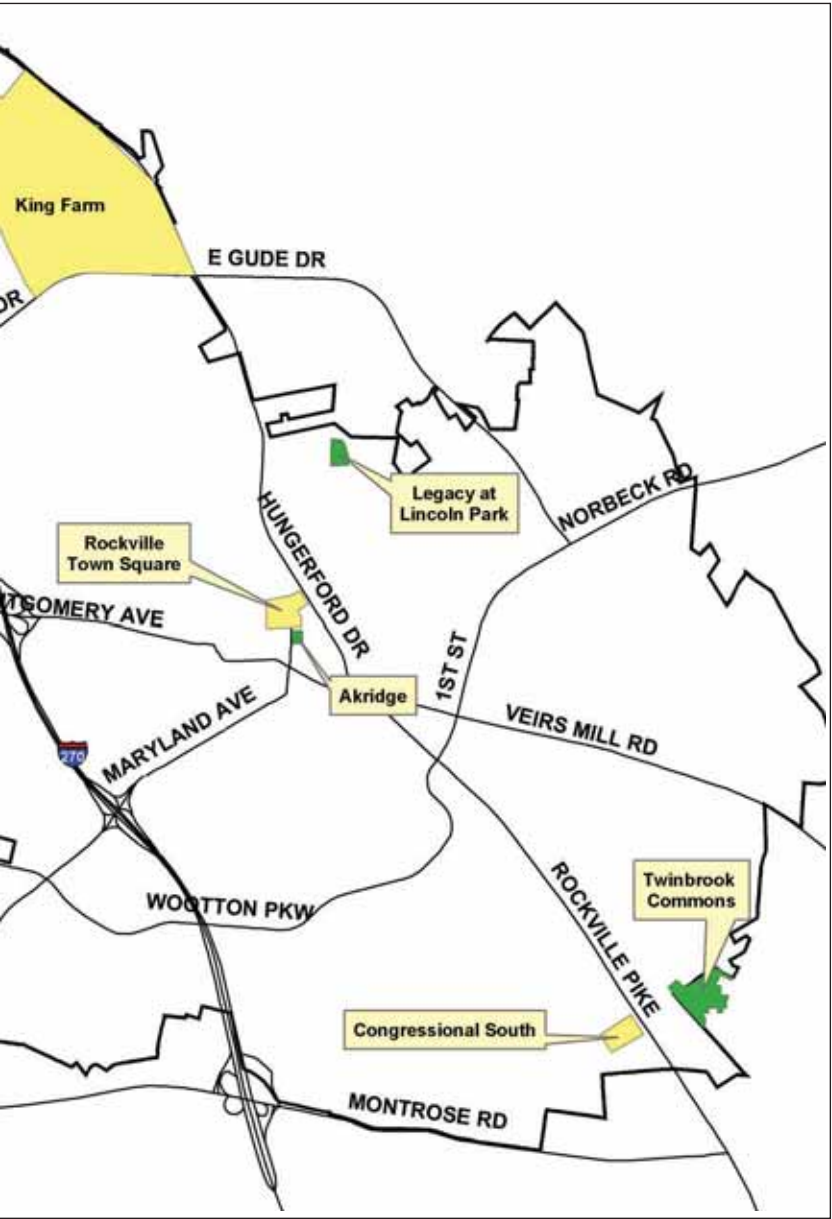
Upper Rock’s location—near the Shady Grove Metro station—is among its appeals. A shuttle service has been proposed to provide easy access to Metro and minimize rush hour traffic.

The Twinbrook Commons project, also being developed by JBG Companies, will be conve-

niently located next to the Twinbrook Metro station.

The overall plan calls for 325,000 square feet of office space, 220,000 square feet of retail/restaurant space and 1,595 residential units. Approval of the plan and a related zoning text that would allow the plan to proceed under Rockville’s “Optional Method of Development” were important steps toward development of the entire project as part of the City. The optional method allows some buildings to exceed current height limitations in exchange for other amenities.

Originally, 17 acres of the development, which surrounds the Twinbrook Metro station, were in Montgomery County, with the remainder of the 26 acres in Rockville. The City agreed to annex the land in the county so the project can be developed under a single development plan.



A “Legacy” Develops in the Lincoln Park Neighborhood

“Legacy at Lincoln Park,” which will become Rockville’s newest mixed-income residential development and will establish a national model for redevelopment of housing, had its plans finalized in FY 2005.

Legacy will become a key element in the transformation of one of the City’s traditional neighborhoods.

Legacy, located on Moore Drive on the site that was the former home of the Lincoln Terrace public housing complex, is a public-private partnership involving Rockville Housing Enterprises (RHE), the City’s independent agency for public

housing, and developer Mid-City Urban, LLC.

Legacy will be a model community in the United States as it will be entirely privately financed, becoming the nation’s first redevelopment of a public housing site that does not use federal, state or city funds. All of the units will be owner-occupied.

Legacy will be an innovative 60-unit complex targeted toward individuals and families of mixed incomes. The 5.4-acre development will have 53 townhouses and seven single-family homes on the space

previously occupied by the 65-unit Lincoln Terrace public housing complex, whose last tenants were relocated in December.

Demolition of Lincoln Terrace is expected to begin in summer 2005. Construction is scheduled to begin before the end of the year and the first units should be ready for occupancy in spring 2006.

Former occupants of Lincoln Terrace will have priority in purchasing the new residences.

“We have made a commitment to redevelop this site in a manner that will be great for Rockville, great for the Lincoln Park community and will well-represent all of those concerned about the need for affordable housing in Rockville,” said George

Young, executive director of RHE.

Legacy units will be priced in tiers, with 20 to be sold at market rate. There will be 22 units targeted to moderate income buyers. The remaining 18 will be subsidized “housing choice voucher” units, sold to low-income buyers.

The new community will have a green space as part of its interior and a homeowners’ association will be formed.

The housing choice voucher units and units that are provided to meet the City’s Moderately-Priced Dwelling Unit requirement will remain in that status for 30 years. If an owner wishes to sell in less than 30 years, RHE will buy the unit and then re-sell it at a below market rate.

WELCOMING OF CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

When asked in the 2005 Rockville Citizen Survey if city government welcomes citizen involvement, 71 percent of residents said they “strongly agree” or “agree” that it did. This ranked Rockville nationally in the 90th percentile compared to other jurisdictions that asked a similar question.

— Source: 2005 City of Rockville Citizen Survey

King Farm

As the King Farm community nears completion, several areas once designated for offices will be used in better ways to meet the needs of the citizens who live there.

The King Farm concept plan was approved in 1995 and construction began in 1997. King Farm has become a unique 430-acre community that is a model for national urban planning. Its neo-traditional design features a mix of multifamily buildings, townhouses and single-family homes that are closer to the street than traditional suburban model communities. In addition, King Farm was Rockville’s first community to construct a village center featuring street-level retail with residential and office buildings.

In FY 2005, the King Farm developer received approval to build a 1.2 million-square-foot, three-building facility between King Farm Boulevard and Piccard Drive. “Ingleside Continuing Care” will feature independent living, assisted living and nursing home care for senior citizens.

In addition, a new Sheraton Hotel received approval to be built in the community.

Fallsgrove

Major construction progress continued on the 257-acre Fallsgrove development, whose concept plan was approved in February 2000.

At the heart of the thriving new development, located near the intersection of Shady Grove Road and Darnestown Road, is a large open green space. The park called the Village Green is unique not just for its colorful sculpture “Color Play” that welcomes visitors to the community, but also because it is one of the first parks to be built by a developer and turned over to the City to maintain.

A transfer of a total of 87.5 acres of parkland in Fallsgrove took place in FY 2005.

Congressional South

Congressional South, whose redevelopment plan was approved by the City’s Planning Commission in January 2002, is a new residential and retail complex at the corner of Halpine Road and Route 355 that was constructed in FY 2005.

The community is designed to reduce commuter traffic by capitalizing on public transportation options available at the nearby Twinbrook Metro station.

Out & About in Rockville

Nearly every day there is something exciting happening in the City of Rockville. Rockville's eight high-quality recreation centers, more than 50 parks and gardens, emerging Town Center, F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, RedGate Municipal Golf Course and Glenview Mansion combine to offer numerous unique and entertaining ways to spend time with friends and family.

Throughout the year, Rockville creates a vibrant community through a multitude of electrifying special events and learning opportunities for people of all ages and interests at its indoor and outdoor venues. In FY 2005, Rockville's citizens enjoyed many favorite annual events and also saw several new ways to get "out and about."

Here are a few highlights of how Rockville is rising above the rest:

Hometown Holidays Finishes As Biggest in Event's History

The 61st Annual Rockville Memorial Day Parade through the streets of Town Center completed the most successful Hometown Holidays weekend in the 17 years since the City began the Washington area's biggest Memorial Day Weekend celebration.

The three days of events had been partially hampered by rain in recent years, but an entire weekend of outstanding spring weather attracted an estimated 60,000 people to Rockville's developing Town Center area over Saturday, Sunday and Monday. The weekend was highlighted by a series of free concerts, topped by the Saturday night performance by Hootie and the Blowfish.

The weekend included about 30 local restaurants that served some of their best dishes as part of the Taste of Rockville on Saturday. There were big crowds for the Rockville Art Festival, which featured the works of artists from 11 states on Saturday and Sunday and the first annual Rockville Flower and Garden Show on Sunday. Bicyclists were evident throughout downtown and many neighborhood streets on Sunday as part of the annual Ride for Rockville city bike tour.

First Annual Arts and Music Festival Rocks Town Center

A revitalized downtown fall event turned into one of Rockville's biggest parties as the first annual Rockville Arts and Music Festival debuted on Saturday, Sept. 18, around Courthouse Square Park in Rockville Town Center.

The daylong event became the new home of the International Chili Society's Chesapeake Bay Regional Cook-off and was backed in flavor by the New Berth Brass Band of New Orleans.

Rockville's previous fall festival, "The Spirit of Rockville," was chiefly dedicated to celebrating the vast diversity of the city. The new festival maintained a celebration of cultures



The Hard Times Chili Cookoff attracted thousands to Rockville Town Center for the new Arts and Music Festival.



The May 29 Ride for Rockville was a hit with bike enthusiasts.

while expanding to include many other features that drew a big crowd to Town Center—including the 24th annual regional cook-off formerly held in Alexandria and more than 30 local artists selling their work.

Festivities Honor Rockville's African American and American Indian Heritage

A variety of festivals are conducted each year to honor Rockville's diverse past.

Journalist and three-time national Emmy Award winner Renee Poussaint joined 500 Rockville community members, speakers and performers to celebrate the significant achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on what would have been his 75th birthday on Monday, Jan. 17.

One of the largest celebrations in the Washington, D.C. area, the 33rd Annual "Living the Dream" event celebrated the legendary civil rights leader's legacy with performances by community groups, the video tribute "A Dream for All of Us" and awards presentations.

Rockville's African American



The band Hootie and the Blowfish played for a large crowd in Rockville Town Center at Hometown Holidays, the City's annual Memorial Day Weekend festival.

Heritage was further celebrated in January with a special production of "What Do You Know About Jim Crow?" by the youth troupe "The Finest!"

American Indian culture took center stage in November as Councilmember Susan Hoffmann and Mayor Larry Giammo joined local organizations in celebrating the history of the native Americans who were the first to live in the area now known as Rockville.

Fore! Rockville Juniors Golf

Area teens took to the RedGate Municipal Golf Course in June 2005 to participate in the second annual Rockville Junior Open.

The competition was open to junior amateur golfers ages 10-17. Despite the hot and humid early summer weather, more than 50 young golfers headed to the course to compete for first through third-place titles, medals, a trophy and other prizes.

The Rockville Junior Open is another exciting chapter in the growth of Rockville's RedGate golf course. The success of this new event is expected to lead to similar competitions in the future.

RECREATION AND PARKS SERVICES

According to the 2005 Rockville Citizen Survey, more than 75% of respondents rated each of the following as "excellent" or "good":

- City-sponsored special events
- Quality of recreational programs and variety of programs offered
- Accessibility of parks and facilities
- Athletic fields and playgrounds
- Safety of parks and facilities
- Condition of park grounds
- Range of activities



The F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Award was awarded to Grace Paley.

Rockville Arts Place: New Name, New Location

Rockville Arts Place was a fixture for 17 years on East Middle Lane as part of the strip shopping center that was demolished to pave the way for Phase I of the new Rockville Town Square development. But with the redevelopment of Rockville Town Center also came the opportunity for changes for RAP.

In FY 2005, the organization renamed itself the "Metropolitan Center for Visual Arts at Rockville" as one way to support a capital campaign to raise necessary funds for its future home in a state-of-the-art facility to be built adjacent to the new Rockville Regional Library in Town Center.

While construction is taking place, the City worked with RAP to find a temporary office location at 9300 Gaither Road in what is technically Gaithersburg, but is figuratively just outside of the City limits north of Shady Grove Road.

Lecture Series Debuts At Croydon Creek Nature Center

Rockville's Croydon Creek Nature Center expanded its role in educating area students about the natural world through a new lecture series for local high school and middle school students. The program not only explores important science topics, but also helps fulfill a graduation requirement.

The first lectures "Women in Science" and "The Science of Roadkill" took place in the spring of 2005.

Through the new lecture series, CCNC hopes to connect students with real world scientists, current research, off-mainstream topics and most importantly, resources that are within their own backyard.

Not Just for Kids: Seniors Dodge Ball

Springing from the wild idea of Senior Center Fitness Specialist Joyce Staub, Senior Dodge Ball has become one of the more popular classes offered at the Center this year.

Thirteen seniors participated in the first class, which focused on learning the rules, stretching their limbs and playing a few games of the childhood classic modified for the older adults.

Water Therapy Makes Waves

The Rockville Swim Center, Rockville's premiere facility for water fitness, made waves with a series of classes for those with disabilities.

The Swim Center's water therapy classes were designed to develop muscle strength, flexibility, range of motion and endurance for those who suffer from various mobility-limiting conditions such as arthritis, fibromyalgia, joint replacements, stenosis, traumatic brain injuries, multiple sclerosis and the after-effects of strokes.

Rockville Neighborhoods

They hold cookouts and pool parties, snowman building events and sledding contests. They volunteer countless hours on homeowners associations as well as City boards and commissions. Citizens in Rockville's more than 60 distinct and diverse neighborhoods take pride in creating an outstanding quality of life for those who live, work and play in Rockville.

Here are a few highlights of Rockville's neighbors and neighborhoods in FY 2005:



Jeni Stepanek speaks at the groundbreaking ceremony for the park that will be named in honor of her son, Mattie.

Mattie Stepanek Honored with King Farm Park in His Name

Mattie J.T. Stepanek was saluted for his remarkable contributions through his poetry, crusade for world peace and overall enthusiasm for life at a groundbreaking ceremony in June for a 26.2-acre park to be named in his honor.

In April, the Mayor and Council unanimously voted to name the future park in King Farm as Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park after the extraordinary resident who died in June 2004, one month before his 14th birthday.

Stepanek was the author of several books, each of which reached the New York Times bestseller list. He was a guest on the Oprah Winfrey Show and held former President Jimmy Carter among his worldwide admirers.

Even more remarkable is that he made such a difference despite a long struggle with a rare muscular disease. For the last three years of his life, Mattie lived at King Farm with his mother, Jeni. He was a well-known figure, patrolling the community in his wheelchair.

"At first you might think that naming a park has nothing to do with peace," Jeni Stepanek told the Mayor and Council in April. "But if Mattie was here, he would say it has everything to do with it... Mattie believed you must play after every storm."

Managing Stormwater in College Gardens

Residents in the College Gardens neighborhood have been working with the City's Department of Public Works to gain a greater understanding of watershed protection and pollution reduction from the stormwater that drains from the community into Watts Branch, the largest stream system in the City.

Following a survey conducted to determine residents' interest,

the City organized several "water workshops" for residents to learn how to use rain barrels to collect stormwater to be reused for gardening and other methods to reduce pollution.

(Bus) Shelter from the Storm

Rockville residents who sometimes must brave the weather to ride area buses found their commute becoming a little easier in FY 2005 with the installation of 25 new bus shelters throughout the City.

Contributions by developers working on projects in the City funded some of the new shelters, which are placed near the associated developments. The rest of the shelters are funded by a \$50,000



A commuter uses a new bus shelter located near the Rockville Library.

grant awarded to the City by the Maryland Transit Administration, under the Smart Growth Transit Program.

With the addition of the new shelters there are a total of 477 bus stops and 56 bus shelters in the City.

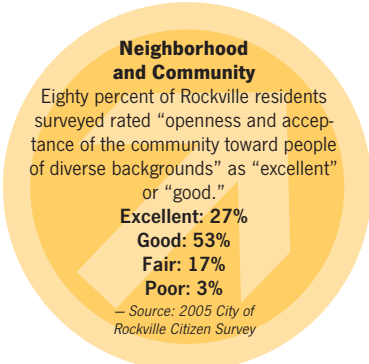
Peerless Homes and Hospitality Tour

Peerless Rockville hosted its first Homes and Hospitality Tour called, "A Progression Through Time," on May 21.

Guests toured six historic



Volunteers sift through water and dirt to uncover artifacts that give clues to Rockville's history.



homes in East Rockville and six newer homes in King Farm, while enjoying great food, live music and good company. Drinks and gourmet hors d'oeuvres provided by Rockville restaurants were served at many of the homes.

Unearthing Rockville's Past

While construction workers were digging for the new Rockville Town Square development, archaeologists were busy searching through the debris for clues to Rockville's past.

Robin Ziek, a City historic planner, is working with volunteers from Montgomery College, Peerless Rockville, the Montgomery County Historical Society and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) to collect and preserve artifacts found in town center. The groups began work in summer 2004 and have since found a stone-lined well, remains from a possibly burned down home and evidence of a Safeway that was at the site in the 1960s.

"What I really feel good about is that we really aren't missing things," Ziek said. "We are confirming the occupation here."

However, Town Center isn't the only place in Rockville where history is found beneath the surface. For the past three years a small group has conducted four week-long field sessions at a site in Watts Branch.

With the help of dedicated volunteers, archaeologists discovered arrowheads, spear points, knives, scrapers and pottery pieces at the site. These indicate two separate occupations, one dating back to as early as 3000 BCE and the other around 1300 CE.

Meet these City of Rockville Neighbors

Rockville's neighborhoods are home to some remarkable individuals who make major contributions to the City's quality of life. The following tells the stories of some residents who made significant impacts in FY 2005.



Mike Mogil explains how the weather works to a College Gardens Elementary student.

Weather Watcher: Mike Mogil

H. Michael "Mike" Mogil, an 18-year City of Rockville resident, was honored by the U.S. Postal Service in October for helping to make the skies over Rockville famous.

From the front yard of his former home on Baylor Avenue, Mogil photographed an unusual Al-tocumulus Undulatus cloud and that image in 2005 was distributed to millions across the country as a new U.S. Postal Stamp.

"Clouds are awesome. They



tell us much about the weather and atmosphere. And they make beautiful pieces of art, especially on stamps," said Mogil. "I've waited 15 years to get to this moment."

Mogil continues to photograph clouds from his porch at his home in King Farm.

Volunteer Historian: Sharyn Duffin

It has been 30 years since Lincoln Park resident Sharyn Duffin set her sights on documenting the history of her beloved historically black community that dates back to 1891.

However, Duffin has viewed the history of her section of East Rockville much differently than her neighbors.

A bout of spinal meningitis left Duffin blind since high school. Ever since, recording the history of Lincoln Park has been one of her many passions.

In FY 2005, Duffin became vital to the creation of a City preservation plan for the neighborhood, which archives its history and protects its historic buildings.

City Historic Preservation Planners rely on Duffin's help to proofread, correct names and dates and identify other people who might have knowledge of the history of Lincoln Park.

"A lot of us who have stayed in this area are descendents of slaves," said Duffin, herself the great great granddaughter of a former slave to S.T. Stonestreet. "They had to work hard [for freedom] and they should be remembered and recognized."



Sharyn Duffin, volunteer, talks with long time friend and reader Leo Orbach.

2nd Annual Good Neighbor Awards

Rockville's Mayor and Council honored 16 individual residents and 14 families on July 26, 2004, with "Good Neighbor Awards" in the second year of a program that recognizes residents who contribute to bettering their communities.

The individuals honored were: Susanna Barber, Max and Maryann Bliss, Christine Eldarrat, James Gibson, Arthur Goldberg, Richard Martin, Teresa Maxwell, Hani Miletski, William Nickel, Carl Peterson, Deborah King Englert Richey, Theodore Reuther, Gertrude Ryan, Chandra Tak and John Wright.

In the spirit of true community spirit, nine families from Rice Court and five families from Auburn Avenue were honored for working together to assist neighbor Rosa Cullen. Cullen, 74, said she had been ill, but her neighbors banded together to take care of her and her home during her recovery.

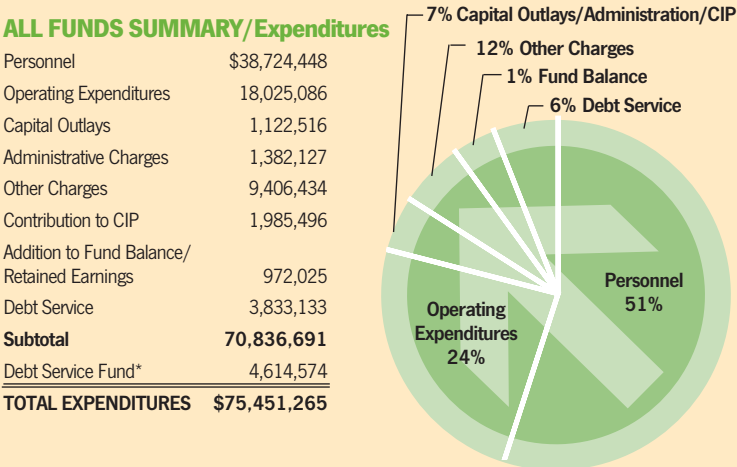
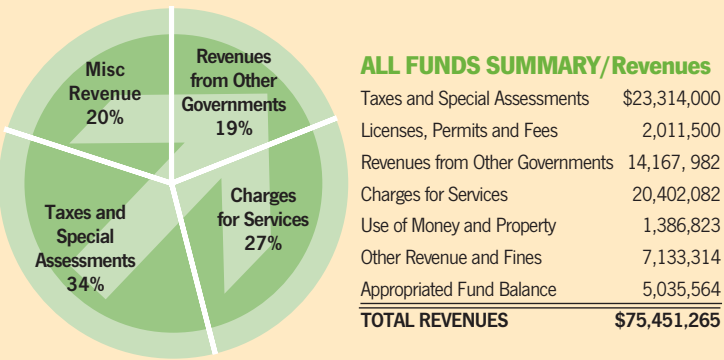
Individual honorees were selected for a variety of acts including shoveling snow for neighbors, volunteering to write and publish community newsletters, serving on community association boards, organizing neighborhood events and other helpful activities in their areas.

FY05 Budget and Awards

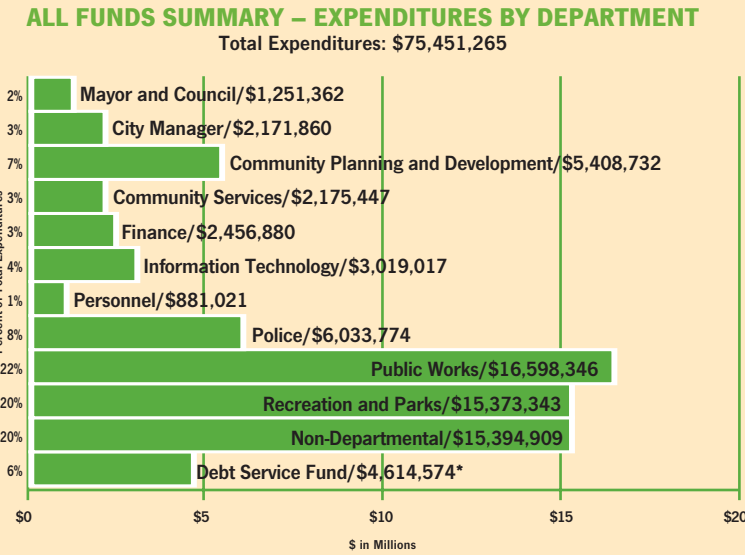
FY 2005 Budget At a Glance

Rockville is consistently recognized for a high standard of financial excellence and for consistently producing and operating under a balanced budget. In FY 2005, the City implemented a new system of budget reporting adding greater detail and performance measures to the FY 2006 proposed and adopted budget. Citizens are encouraged to review this document thoroughly to learn about what new projects and services are coming in FY 2006.

Below are three charts summarizing City revenues and expenditures in FY 2005.



*Note: The Debt Service Fund receives transfers from the other funds to pay the debt service on general obligation bonds. Since these transfers are already counted as debt service expenditures in originating funds, there is essentially a double-counting effect when the Debt Service Fund records the same expenditures. For this reason, the Debt Service Fund amount of \$4,614,574 is isolated.



About the City of Rockville

The 2005 Rockville Citizen Survey not only revealed a lot about residents' attitude toward the City – it also helped gain an understanding about who lives in Rockville.

Total Household Income

A breakdown of Rockville household incomes:

Less than \$25,000:	9%
\$25,000 to \$49,999:	24%
\$50,000 to \$99,999:	33%
\$100,000 to \$199,999:	26%
\$200,000 or more:	8%

Technology

Rockville citizens are connected with technology.

91 percent of survey respondents said they have access to a computer at home, work or school

Feeling At Home

Rockville is a good place to settle, say the 56 percent of residents who have lived in the City six years or more:

5 years or less	44%
6-20 years	32%
21 years or more	24%



Councilmembers Bob Dorsey, left, and Anne Robbins accept the 16th consecutive Tree City USA award from a National Arbor Day Foundation representative for the City's tree programs.

City Manager's Office

- Rockville's Town Center development was approved for \$1 million in Federal funding for Town Center Transit Related Infrastructure
- The State of Maryland approved \$1.5 million in funding for public improvements related to Town Center development
- 3CMA (City-Council Communications and Marketing Association) nationally recognized the City of Rockville's employee newsletter "City Signals" and Rockville's Communications Overview, produced by the Communications Team, with Silver Circle Awards

Information and Technology

- The Rockville Channel (TRC 11) received the Arthur M. Wagman Award for Historic Preservation Communication from Peerless Rockville for TRC's body of work over past 20 years
- The Rockville Channel (TRC 11) received 3CMA (City-County Communications and Marketing Association) Silver Circle Awards for "Diversity in the City: Latinos/Hispanics" in the (Public Education category) and for "Election Night Live" in the (One-time Programming category)
- The Rockville Channel (TRC 11) received NATOA (National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors) Honorable Mention awards for "Mayor and Council Meeting Coverage." (in the Public/Community Meeting category); for "The Content of Their Character" (in the Ethnic Experience category); and for "Rockville Caregivers, Homeless Shelters," (in the Documentary—Social Issues category)

Community Planning and Development Services

- Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich awarded the Maryland Vision Award for Smart Development to Rockville for the "King Farm Development"
- Peerless Rockville awarded its Historic Preservation Award for the Rockville Cemetery Design Guidelines
- Peerless Rockville awarded its Historic Preservation Award for the Chestnut Lodge Design Guidelines
- The Historic Preservation Program received a grant from the Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions for continuing education of staff and the Historic District Commission

Personnel

- The City of Rockville was recognized by The Greater Washington, D.C., Best Workplaces for Commuters Coalition for outstanding commuter benefits to employees, for cutting traffic and air pollution and improving health and quality of life for commuters

Police

- The "Every 15 Minutes" Program received a \$500 grant from the Allstate Foundation, a \$1,500 grant from Ron Brotman of Allstate Insurance and a \$300 grant from Courtesy Jeep
- The Federal Department of Justice awarded a grant of \$3,671 for ballistic vests
- The Police Canine Unit received the Third Place Novice Patrol Dog award at the USPCA Field Trials in June 2005
- Project Lifesaver International awarded a grant of \$4,000 for the purchase of Project Lifesaver Tracking equipment for the program that helps locate people with wandering disorders
- The Maryland Emergency Management Agency State Homeland Security Grant Program awarded a \$18,197 grant for Law Enforcement Prevention Program projects

Public Works

- The Maryland Department of the Environment Water Quality State Revolving Fund awarded a loan in the amount of \$1,311,600 for the Woottons Mill Stream Restoration
- The Maryland Department of the Environment awarded a grant in the amount of \$352,000 for improvements to two Stormwater Management facilities located at Carnation Drive and the I-270 Industrial Park

Finance

- "Distinguished Budget Presentation Award," from the Government Finance Officers Association for the 13th consecutive year for the Operating and Capital Improvements Program
- "Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting" from the Government Finance Officers Association for the 15th consecutive year for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

Recreation and Parks

- The Arts Division received a \$23,000 grant from the Maryland State Arts Council for arts programming
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources Community Parks and Playgrounds awarded a grant for \$98,500 for enhancements to Bullards Park
- The Chesapeake Bay Trust awarded a grant for \$1,800 for volunteers to plant 1,400 native plants in the meadows adjacent to Croydon Creek Nature Center
- Montgomery County Health and Human Services awarded a grant for \$7,995 for the Senior Nutrition Program
- Montgomery County Collaboration Council awarded a grant for \$9,490 to provide after-school activities for teens
- United States Tennis Association awarded a grant for \$1,000 to provide tennis instruction
- Recreation Superintendent Phil Bryan was elected President of the Maryland Municipal League's Recreation and Parks Branch
- Recreation Program Development Coordinator Betsy Thompson was elected Vice President of the Maryland Recreation and Parks Association
- The National Arbor Day Foundation presented Rockville with the Tree City USA Award for the 16th consecutive year
- Maryland Community Forest Council PLANT Award
- Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture for the Rockville Tree Project – Gold Leaf Award
- The City of Rockville and the East Rockville Citizens Association awarded a Keep Montgomery County Beautiful Award of Excellence for Mary Trumbo Park
- Peerless Rockville awarded its Historic Preservation Award for the restoration of the granary and other improvements in Dawson Farm Park
- Maryland Recreation and Parks Association Agency Showcase awards were received for facility brochure, best of show, program/department video and special event production



In June, four City of Rockville Police officers and a Richard Montgomery High School volunteer were honored with 2005 Rockville Public Safety Awards. Receiving awards, left to right, were: Rockville City Police Corporal Christopher Louis, Corporal Kyle Dickerson, volunteer Mercedes Funes, Corporal Christina Koch and Corporal Rick Halverson. They were honored for their extraordinary service to Rockville.